

THE COUNTY RECORD

KINGSTREE, S. C.

LOUIS J. BRISTOW, Ed. & Prop'r.

GOOD ROADS.

Why Not Give This Important Matter Full Consideration at the Next Session of the Legislature?

A recent issue of the National Advocate, a journal devoted to agricultural interests, contains a paper on "The Relation of Good Roads to Rural Life" that is very timely. Apart from the important considerations of commercial and industrial welfare, a national and State system of good roads is imperatively needed to build up country communities for the country is the store house from which the nation draws its strength.

Good roads also means the drawing nearer of neighbors to one another in the enjoyment of social pleasures, and at no distant day the establishment of a rural mail delivery which, in itself, would do much for the country, besides indirectly helping to check the alarming tendency towards emigration to the cities—one of the most disquieting features of the social condition of the day. Speaking of this, the National Advocate says:

"First, and as the necessity without which nothing can be done, we must have good roads—roads over which vehicle or bicycle may glide rapidly and smoothly, and even now, with such roads, with good horses, or the swift bicycle, are neighbors and families in the country, in closely settled communities, practically brought as near together for all social intercourse and enjoyment and advantages of education as residents of a city. Small holdings, well tilled, bringing thickly populated rural communities will support, in near by towns, good schools, churches, public libraries, gymnasiums, halls for musical and theatrical entertainments, and social enjoyments of all kinds, and all within easy reach of the entire community. Under these conditions nothing which the city has to offer may not be had in the village, and within the reach of the means of every thrifty farmer."

The Columbia Register, diverging a little from this phase of the subject, says it may be well to consider the practicability of establishing a road system in South Carolina that shall meet all requirements, and yet relieve the hard-worked farmer of a burden that would otherwise fall most heavily on him were legislative action taken in the matter.

At the very season when the making of good roads is a task that can best be performed, the average farmer is busiest on his farm, and to ask him to go to work to work out his road tax means to ask him to neglect his crops. Besides, to insure good roads—roads that will wear and last—it is necessary to do more than a little scraping and plowing now and then. Good roads, mean grading, draining and macadamizing, and this it is impracticable to ask the farmer to perform.

It is just here that the advantage of convict labor becomes evident. The inmates of the penitentiary have no other duties but those at which they may be set, and their labor is available at all seasons of the year. Why, then, to accomplish a work of such vast importance to the State should not the muscle and brawn of the convicts be brought into play? In no other way could these men be employed so usefully, and in no other way could these unfortunates so well receive the benefit of wholesome, invigorating exercise.

Roadbuilding is, after all, the best solution of the problem how to make the State convicts pay for their maintenance, and at the same time contribute something to the welfare of the community whose privileges they have abused. South Carolina sorely needs good roads, and the effect of them on the value of agricultural lands and upon the moral well-being of the State can hardly be overestimated.

Why not give this important matter full consideration at the next session of the Legislature? It would be better for the taxpayers of the State, the convicts, and society at large if we should employ the penitentiary population to build and repair public roads instead of keeping them employed at tasks, the product of which competes with free labor, and results in no abiding good to the community.

A BIG DISPENSARY SUIT.

W. A. Vandercok Brings an Injunction Suit Against the South Carolina Dispensary Officers.

A suit has been begun in Charleston in the United States circuit court which may result seriously for the dispensary law of South Carolina. The suit is brought by W. A. Vandercok & Co., of California, against Dispensary Commissioner Vance, a number of State liquor constables and all constables or State officials acting under the dispensary law. A perpetual injunction against them is asked by the company, prohibiting them from interfering with the business of the company which may be transacted with any and all individuals of South Carolina who may be its patrons. The bill of complaint filed is the result of a recent seizure of a carload of wine shipped by Vandercok & Co. to Mr. J. C. Simonds, of the above city. Mr. Simonds is the cashier of the First National Bank of Charleston, and while all of the liquor was consigned to him, the real persons for whom it is intended were a score or more of private citizens. These persons were to receive orders from Mr. Simonds for their respective share of the car-load of wine, depositing at the same time in the bank the purchase money, subject to the order of Vandercok & Co. Shortly after the arrival of the liquor it was seized by the constables and sent to Columbia.

The bill filed cites all the facts in the case and asks for \$5,000 damages. Judge Simonton has appointed May 17th as the day for hearing argument on the case.

Assistant Attorney General Townsend is now hard at work preparing the answer of the State to the complaint in the Vandercok case in the United States Court, which is a proceeding to secure a perpetual injunction against the State interfering with any liquors shipped into the State from another State in the original packages. It is by long odds the most important case against the dispensary law that the State has ever had to fight.

NO PRELIMINARY HEARING.

Col. Gaston and Mr. Scruggs Give a Bond of \$400 Each.

THUS ENDS THE SCANDAL,

For the Time, at Least—The Affidavits Attached to the Warrants Specify the Instances.

As will be seen, by reference to another column, Messrs. Gaston and Scruggs were arrested Friday, but at that time the affidavits could not be given in the case, so the following from the Columbia Register of the 8th explains itself in the matter of the Beckroge trunk scandal:

The warrants against Colonel Gaston and Mr. Scruggs were sworn out yesterday morning before Magistrate Smith by Mr. L. J. Williams. Both are charged with official misconduct under the common law.

The warrants were put in the hands of Constable Hartin to serve, but before he could do so Colonel Gaston appeared at Judge Smith's office and was admitted to bail in the sum of \$400. Major E. B. Evans and Gen. John Gary Watts signed the bond. There was no preliminary hearing. Colonel Gaston had gone to the office early in the morning expecting the warrant to be there, but it was not, and he waited.

About 5 o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Scruggs came in and was released on a bond of \$400, signed by James E. Payne and W. G. Scruggs, of Greenville.

The warrant in the case of Mr. Scruggs charges that "on or about the first day of March, 1897, one Seth W. Scruggs did commit official misconduct by taking and carrying away from the contraband room in the State Dispensary four boxes of cigars and four cans of peaches and other articles, the property of the State, while engaged in the discharge of his duties as clerk and bookkeeper of the State Board of Control in said State Dispensary, with intent to defraud the State of South Carolina, as fully set forth in the affidavit hereto attached."

The affidavit was made before Magistrate Smith by Mr. L. J. Williams, and is as follows:

Personally appeared before me L. J. Williams, who, after being duly sworn, says: That he is a member of the State Board of Control; that Seth W. Scruggs of the county and State aforesaid, was duly elected clerk of the State Board of Control on the day of April, 1896, and at that time entered upon the duties of said office and continued in the discharge of the same until the 7th day of May, 1897, when his successor was duly elected; that during the time he was clerk of the said board, his duties were defined and prescribed by said board, which were to act as bookkeeper of said board, to have the custody and control of the books and all papers in the control of the said board, to keep the minutes of the board and to discharge all other duties appertaining to clerk of the Board.

That he is informed by a number of persons who have made affidavits, and believes that Seth W. Scruggs, while so acting as bookkeeper and clerk of the said Board of Control did, on or about the first of March A. D. 1897, procure a key for a room in the State Dispensary, in which all liquors and other property seized and forfeited to the State are kept, and which was in keeping and control of the State Commissioner, but under the general control of the Board, and with the said key did enter the said room, without the knowledge or consent of the State Commissioner and the State Board of Control, and take therefrom and carry away four boxes of cigars and four cans of peaches, property of the State of South Carolina, which had been forfeited to it, of the value of \$4, and did appropriate the same to his own use, with intent thereby to defraud the State and damage the public and in grave violation of his said duties as clerk and bookkeeper.

That he is informed by the persons who made affidavits as aforesaid that the said Seth W. Scruggs, while acting as such bookkeeper and clerk of the Board of Control as aforesaid, did, on divers occasions, between the day of April, 1896, and the 7th day of May, 1897, enter the said contraband room with a key then in his possession, other than the one in the possession of the State Commissioner, claiming that the said key was one provided for the use of the State Board of Control, when, in fact, so far as he knows, the board had no such key, and had not authorized him to provide such a key for the said board, and that with such false key the said Seth W. Scruggs did open and enter the contraband room aforesaid and did take therefrom one box of cigars and four cans of peaches of the value of \$4, the property of the State of South Carolina, with intent to defraud the State of South Carolina, by appropriating the said articles to his own use, in gross violation of his duties as such clerk and bookkeeper to the damage of the public and to the evil example of all others in like cases offending.

That he is informed by the persons aforesaid that Seth W. Scruggs, while acting as such clerk and bookkeeper and holding said office, between the day of April A. D. 1896, and the 8th day of May 1897, on divers occasions procured a key and entered the said contraband room, which was under control of the Commissioner, subject to the general control of the State Board, and did take and carry away therefrom cigars and other articles of personal property of the value of \$200, the property of the State of South Carolina with intent to defraud the State, by appropriating them to his own use, and to the damage and injury of the public and by such acts was guilty of gross official misconduct; that all the acts herein charged were committed in Richland county in the State of South Carolina.

That Charles J. Lynch, M. H. Mobley, C. H. Charles, Robert E. Blakeley, S. W. Vance, W. W. Harris, C. A. Koon, H. E. Watts, L. J. Williams, S. H. Douthitt and D. M. Miles are material witnesses to prove said charges.

L. J. WILLIAMS.

THE GASTON WARRANT.

The warrant against Colonel Gaston alleges that "on or about the first day

of March, 1897, one John T. Gaston did commit official misconduct by taking and carrying away from the contraband room in the State Dispensary one pair of shoes, part box of cigars and other articles, the property of the State, while acting as State Commissioner, and in the charge of said room, and while in the discharge of the duties of said office, with intent to defraud the State of South Carolina, as fully set forth in the affidavit hereto attached."

This affidavit is also made by Mr. Williams before magistrate Smith, and alleges:

That John T. Gaston was required by the State Board of Control to act as State Commissioner in the State Dispensary, between the 25th day of October, A. D. 1896, and the 15th day of April, A. D. 1897, in the place of F. M. Nixon, who had resigned.

That on information and belief he says that during the time he was acting as State Commissioner, under the authority and direction of the State Board of Control, the said John T. Gaston, who was, as such Commissioner, in charge of the room in the State dispensary in which were placed for safe keeping all the liquors and other personal property seized by the State Constables and forfeited to the State, or in process of forfeiture, did, on or about the first day of March, A. D. 1897, take and carry away from the said room one pair of shoes and part of a box of cigars, the property of the State of South Carolina, and entrusted to his care and custody, of the value of \$1.25, with intent to defraud the State aforesaid, and to appropriate the said property to his own use, which was in gross violation of his duty as acting State Commissioner, to take care of the said articles, which had been entrusted to his keeping by law, to the great damage of the State of South Carolina.

That on information and belief he further says that the said John T. Gaston, while discharging the duties of State Commissioner, by direction of the State Board of Control, and while in charge of the said contraband room aforesaid, did, on divers occasions, between the 25th day of October, A. D. 1896, and the 15th day of April, A. D. 1897, take from the said room shoes, cigars, coffee and other articles of personal property belonging to the State of South Carolina, of the value of \$50, with intent to defraud the State and to appropriate the said articles to his own use, which was in gross violation of his duty as acting State Commissioner, to take care of said articles, which had been entrusted to his keeping by law, to the great damage of the State of South Carolina.

That all these acts were done in Richland county, in the State of South Carolina.

That S. W. Vance, Willie Jones, H. E. Watts, L. J. Williams and C. A. Koon are material witnesses to prove said charges.

L. J. WILLIAMS.

There has been much discussion as to what charge should be brought against the two men. Official misconduct under the common law was finally agreed upon. The punishment in such cases rests with the discretion of the judge. It evidently was the intention to bring them if possible before the Court of Sessions, for should larceny have been charged, it would have amounted to only a nominal fine by a Trial Justice. It was a knotty point all round to decide what charge to make, for it sometimes happens that crime may be committed against which there is no statutory prohibition. Mr. Scruggs, for instance couldn't be charged with housebreaking nor with burglary. Neither could he be charged with official misconduct under the statute because that only applies to county officials. It is even doubtful whether in the higher court the charge will stand, but then it's no use to cross a bridge till you come to it, and the court will have to decide the question.

Gaston says he will not bother so engage counsel, and Attorney-General Barber says the case will be pushed to the end. The next term of the court for Richland county meets in June.

CHEERFUL PROSPECTS

For Port Royal—Expansion of Government Interests Expected.

The desire on the part of the government to acquire additional territory adjacent to the naval station in this harbor is a self-evident fact that extensive additions will be made to the magnificent plant now owned and operated by the navy department here. The final issue, to our way of thinking, will be the completion of an extensive and perfectly appointed navy yard commensurate with the present and future needs of the government. When it must be remembered that the large vessels of the navy are now very recently constructed, and may stand in little need of present overhauling and repair, that in a few years they will all, more or less, stand in need of repairs of some kind, and hence a large and commodious dry dock and its adjuncts of a complete machine and repair shop, and also a well appointed navy yard, such as will be afforded here will be in demand, and the department, knowing this, is setting its house in order in good time. The wisdom of the government in choosing this site in our harbor for a public work of this character is recognized more and more by those in authority in Washington. Possessing, as we do, a most delightful and healthful climate, deep water approaches and close communication by rail and steam with every part of the world, we might say, we are positive in the justness of our assertion that no better place could have been found on the South Atlantic coast for the stupendous works that will finally occupy the government reservation on Paris Island in Port Royal harbor, a harbor second to none in the world. In the acquisition of the territory now desired by the government will have nearly, if not quite, a mile of water frontage in our harbor, which, with some little dredging inshore at points, will be acceptable anchorage for any vessel in the navy.—Port Royal Palmetto Post.

Lady in pony cart (who has made several unsuccessful attempts to pass persevering beginner occupying the whole road)—Unless you soon fall off, sir, I'm afraid I shall miss my train.—Punch.

It's a wise woman that knows enough not to say anything the next morning when her husband has a wet towel around his head.

DISPENSARY INVESTIGATIONS

The Sinking Fund Money Can Be Loaned to the Counties.

NO BANK EXAMINER FOR A YEAR

A Big Dispensary Suit—A Six-Foot Mule—Stole His Own Cow—Other Palmetto Chips.

L. J. Williams, a member of the State Board of Control, has sworn out warrants against S. W. Scruggs, chief clerk of the dispensary, and Col. John T. Gaston, ex-commissioner of the dispensary. This is the result of investigations by the Attorney General, the testimony showing that Scruggs had taken from a trunk which was seized by constables four boxes of cigars and several cans of peaches. The trunk was the property of Wm. Beckroge, of Savannah, Ga., who went to Charleston about a month ago to get married, and carried a trunk full of wine and whiskey, cigars, canned peaches, oranges, etc. United States Judge Simonton declared the seizure illegal, and when Beckroge demanded his trunk and contents they were gone. The trunk was sold to Legislator Garris, but the board decided that that was a perfectly legitimate transaction, but could not stand the idea of employes appropriating the cigars and things to their own use. Gaston got a few cigars, some oranges and a pair of shoes out of the trunk, but after the whole matter was ventilated he paid for them. The warrants were served last Friday. Scruggs was deputed as chief clerk and W. H. Lawrence, of Darlington, an expert book-keeper, was appointed in his place.

A negro named Jake Jeter was taken before Magistrate Clarkson in Columbia on the charge of stealing a cow from his mother and step-father, who live in the country near the city. At the hearing it was developed that Jake left Columbia last January, going to Savannah, Ga. He did not go out to his mother's until several days after his arrival; when he did he took the cow that was in the stable, so the city and endeavored to sell her. Before he could dispose of her, his step-father had notified the police and Jake was arrested. The cow was taken to the station. While the trial was in progress, the State says, it was brought out that the prisoner owned the cow himself, whereupon the case came to a sudden termination, the prisoner being discharged. He owned to having mortgaged the cow to another party, but he did not sell her.

The attorney general has recently given the State sinking fund commission another opinion as to the length of time for which loans to counties can be made by the board. He had previously held that no loans could be made for a longer or shorter term than one year. According to this later decision, loans are permitted for shorter terms than one year; that a careful consideration of the act made it apparent that the term for one year meant not exceeding one year, since as the loans are made in March and must be repaid out of the first taxes collected in November, a loan cannot really be made for a whole year. This will be gratifying news to many of the counties.

The State Bank Board met in the Governor's office last week and adopted the following, which crushes the hopes of many applicants for the place in question:

Whereas, there was a defect in the act of 1896 providing for the election of a State bank examiner, in consequence of which no election was held, and

Whereas, the General Assembly of 1897 did not amend the act or supply the defect although cognizant thereof, therefore be it

Resolved by this board, that no election be now had and that the matter be formally called to the attention of the next General Assembly.

The Columbia State says a country negro drove into that city a peculiar mule attached to an ordinary wagon last week. The mule, which was an ordinary looking animal, had six well developed feet, four of which were attached to the animal's two front legs. Two of the feet the mule used as if nothing were wrong, the other two were merely ornaments. The ignorant negro who owned him said that he was six years old—too old to take off the extra feet. He did not seem to realize that his mule in a dime museum or a side show would quickly put him above the necessity of hauling and selling wood.

While Butler Turner, colored, was at work in the excavation for the foundation of the ice factory at Pelzer, which was about 20 feet deep, the embankment caved in on him to the depth of eight or ten feet, burying him alive. His lifeless body was unearthed and removed as soon as possible, but no power on earth could have saved him, as it is supposed that death resulted instantly. Turner was about 25 years old and lived in Williamston.

A special to The State from Blackville, Barnwell county, of May 8, says: A very distinct earthquake shock was felt here at 6:45 this evening accompanied by a very loud noise resembling that of heavy thunder. The shock was felt at Elko, Williston and Wagner.

The executive committee of the State Fair met in Columbia last week and revised the premium list. There was a full attendance of the committee with the exception of President Childs and Secretary Holloway, who was detained by sickness. The list was gone over and in many of the departments the premiums were increased in number and value. None were reduced. The list was turned over to the printer, and by June will be ready for distribution.

A TALK WITH McLAURIN.

How He Came to Make His Two Famous Speeches on the Tariff Question.

"B. M. L." in a special dispatch from Washington to the News and Courier, under date of the 6th, says Representative McLaurin's position on the tariff question has given him a prominence throughout the country which even his political enemies at home are bound to recognize. Notwithstanding the attempts made by certain persons to belittle his recent tariff speeches, he has a growing following in South Carolina which would astonish his political rivals, who are eaten up with jealousy because of his rapid advancement in national as well as in State politics. I saw a letter from an ex-member of Congress from Texas, which stated that a Vice Presidential boom for Mr. McLaurin is under way in the Lone Star State. I would not be surprised to see him run for Governor of South Carolina next year. There is a strong pressure upon him to make the race.

When I called upon Mr. McLaurin at his residence last evening I found him in a particularly happy frame of mind, looking over a pile of letters that had accumulated during his absence.

"My mail," said he, "has nearly quadrupled since my two last speeches. The first seems to have struck a responsive chord throughout the South, while the last has led to a vast amount of apparently anxious inquiries concerning the conditions and advantages of our section."

In answer to an inquiry Mr. McLaurin said his position on the way and means committee was the prime cause for making the first speech.

"I would sit there," said he, "day after day listening to individuals and delegations demanding recognition through national legislation, and not hear a single solitary mention of the great industries of the South. Finally one man came before us in the interests of long staple cotton, but failed to make much of an impression, since he found Southern members opposed to such a demand. I began to get letters from different sections of the South calling my attention to the rice schedules. Parties interested in cotton seed oil productions wrote me concerning talow being on the free list, which would tend to cheapen oil, and thereby cheapen the price of cotton seed to the planter. Men engaged in making cotton began to write asking if it would not be fair to demand a duty on cotton, at the same time reminding me that there was a heavy duty on cotton cloth. The injustice of sitting idly by and permitting the North and East to obtain all the advantages of such legislation, and at the same time realize that my own section and people were being plundered through its operation.

"As I continued the preparation of that speech I became more and more impressed that the interests of the South had been neglected, and more firmly determined to make a demand for fair and equitable division of benefits and responsibilities. I am not a Protectionist, and rejected that statement many times in the course of my speech, but if that doctrine was to obtain in this country I simply demanded as a matter of right and justice that the South should not be the victim. The press of the South, with rare exceptions, have accepted my contention as fair and just, and I look for substantial assistance from Southern members in making a contest, not only for long staple cotton, but for a square recognition of all Southern interests in the final status of the tariff bill.

"Here are hundreds of clippings," said Mr. McLaurin, showing a file case filled with them, "taken from papers in the South endorsing my position and encouraging me to further action. These letters also," pointing to a large number, "are from prominent men, not only in the South, but in other sections, declaring my position correct, and urging me to continue the fight. In order to round out my first speech and show the true situation I made the last one. Some papers have called it an immigration speech and an advertisement for the South. I don't care anything about that, since my purpose was accomplished when I attracted the attention of the balance of the country to our section.

"I assumed that such increased interest and inquiry regarding our section would assist materially in securing fair play, and I find it has. This speech has been printed in full in many leading papers, and liberal extracts have found their way into thousands of newspapers throughout the entire nation. The New York Financial, the Boston Journal of Commerce, the Chicago Record and numerous journals of this character have printed much of the speech, and commented editorially upon it. The Southern Railroad Company has printed a large portion of it and sent out thousands to its correspondents and inserted it in thousands of papers interested in our section. I make this statement not boasting, but in order to show what an easy matter it is and, I believe, might have been years ago, to obtain the prompt attention of the business element of the North to our advantages as a section. I sincerely hope that this line of investigation may be stimulated by others, so that the South may in the end obtain its rights."

ASPARAGUS PAYS.

A Barnwell Farmer Realizes \$200 an Acre From It.

Asparagus is becoming quite an important crop in the Williston section of Barnwell county. Last year Mr. W. H. Evans realized from his crop of six acres \$1,200, and another planter sold his crop of five acres for \$800. Other farmers intend trying the experiment this year, and if this season proves as profitable as the last, cotton will be no longer the only dependence as a money crop in this section. In fact, all over South Carolina the progressive farmers are fast being converted to believers in diversified crops. The whole Pee Dee country is fast becoming a great tobacco producing section. Salads and Lexington ship peaches by the carload. Fairfield, Chester and York supply a large proportion of the butter used in Columbia. The watermelon crop of Barnwell, Aiken and Hampton is sufficient to make the rival railroads work hard to obtain this freight. Williamsburg ships grapes fit for a king.

THE MAYORS' MEETING.

The Convention Adjourns After Electing Officers.

THE RIGHTS OF WHEELMEN.

City Ownership of Electric Plants and Water Works—About Good Roads.

The Mayors' Convention met in the opera house in Spartanburg last Wednesday in a two days' session. About 200 were present, and the discussions were strong, short and pointed. All the mayors seemed to be alive and in earnest.

Prof. Holmes, State Geologist of North Carolina, lectured on "Roads and Street Improvements." His talk was very suggestive and instructive, and well illustrated with stereopticon views.

The ownership of electric and water works plants by the city was discussed, resulting in favor of city ownership. The subject of bored wells was brought up and was highly commended by the representatives from Union, Newberry and Chester. The wells have been tested at these places and furnish 150,000 to 200,000 gallons of good water daily.

Bicycle rights on streets brought out some pretty lively talk, but as no agreement to the best plan could be arranged the bicycles will roll on in the same old way.

The punishment of children and female offenders proved a difficult question, which still remains unsolved.

Messrs. Simpson & Simpson of Glenn Springs, took the delegates to Glenn Springs, where they were delightfully entertained.

Mayor Calvert sent a communication to the convention expressing his regret that he had not been able to attend the meeting at all, owing to illness. It seemed bad that the one who had been the main person in getting up the convention should not be able to attend, and many were heard regretting that Mayor Calvert could not be present.

Those present thought it best to make the convention meet once a year, so officers were elected for the year. The officers are as follows:

President, A. B. Calvert, Spartanburg; vice-presidents, W. D. Morgan, of Georgetown; G. F. Tolly, of Anderson; F. L. Zemp, of Camden; J. A. Fant, of Union; W. McB. Sloan, of Columbia, and H. H. Evans, of Newberry; secretary and treasurer, W. R. Bichey, Laurens.

Mayor Spratt, who acted as secretary during the convention, was named as secretary by the committee, but declining on account of not having time to attend to the office properly.

After a close vote between Anderson and Georgetown, the latter was selected as the next place of meeting. The time will be the second Wednesday in May.

A vote of thanks to the people of Spartanburg and others for their entertainment was passed.

A committee on legislation was appointed. Their purpose is to make municipal government more effective. The following is the committee: A. B. Calvert, Spartanburg; G. F. Tolly, Anderson; W. D. Morgan, Georgetown; W. McB. Sloan, Columbia; John Black, Walterboro.

Though Mr. Potter was unable to be present, his paper was read by Mayor Pro Tem Carlisle.

The convention has been a great success, and many things were learned in it. The mayors attended to learn, and this shows that the town government of South Carolina is looking upward.

ABBEVILLE ANXIOUS

To Be the Base of An Important Seaboard Air Line Spur.

A special to The State from Abbeville under date of the 6th says: For some time past there has been a good deal of talk concerning the construction of a new railroad from Piedmont and Pelzer to some point on the Seaboard Air Line. The Seaboard Air Line people are the promoters and of course as their shops are located here it would be advantageous to bring the new road here, but surveys have been made to other towns, small ones all of them, Calhoun Falls and Watts, but this town is pretty sure of getting it. At least, judging from the meeting held here yesterday afternoon, the business men are thoroughly alive to the situation and are going to do all they can in a financial way to have the road. The sentiment expressed at this meeting went to show that the citizens mean to do the right thing and so bring the road here.

The road as surveyed to Abbeville by Belton and Due West from Piedmont and Pelzer will be 41 miles and will cost \$345,000. As surveyed via Antville it will be 44 1-2 miles and will cost \$369,000. As surveyed to Watts via Antville it will be 45 1-2 miles and will cost \$340,000. As surveyed to Calhoun Falls it will be 47 1-2 miles long and will cost \$351,000. The difference in the cost in bringing the road here and taking it to Watts is \$5,000 in favor of Watts, but the advantages in bringing it to Abbeville are worth \$20,000 more to the promoters of the enterprise. The Seaboard Air Line shops are here, and since they are to operate the new road it would certainly be a great advantage to have it come to their shops. Then the Southern touches Abbeville and this new road, therefore, by coming here will be in connection with the two greatest roads doing business in South Carolina.

There was a good deal of favorable discussion at the meeting yesterday afternoon, and the business men of this city are going to leave no stone unturned, but are going to talk railroad until they get it, and are going to back this talk with cash, and so the road is about assured.

Briggs-Stimmerson, the inventor, says his wife doesn't even know what concealed he is in. Griggs—Why has he concealed it from her? Briggs—He is afraid she might get the impression that he could do odd jobs around the house.—Lift.